

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192960

FOLLOWING REPEAT LAGOS 7597 ACTION SECSTATE 15 AUG

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7597

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, US

SUBJECT: US POLICY VIS-A-VIS AFRICA

1. IN COURSE TOUR D'HORIZON WITH EMBOFF AUGUST 13, DIRECTOR MEA AMERICA DEPARTMENT OLISEMEK COMMENTED THAT FMG HOPED NE US ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE ABLE DEVOTE GREATER ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS OF AFRICA. PLEDGES OF "CONTINUITY" BY PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINER WERE NOT AS REASSURING TO AFRICANS, WHO HOPED FOR CHANGE IN SEVERAL ASPECTS OF US POLICY VIA-A-VIS THEIR CONTINENT, AS TO NATIONS ELSEWHERE IN WORLD. OLISEMEKA CONCLUDED BY INDICATING PLEASURE AT FACT SECRETARY HAD MET PERSONALLY WITH OAU AMBASSADORS, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS HERALDED GREATER PERSONAL ATTENTION ON HIS PART TO AFRICAN ISSUES.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE FORMAL EXPRESSIONS OF SATISFACTION FROM SENIOR NIGERIAN OFFICIALS AT PLEDGE OF "CONTINUITY" (INCLUDING GOWON'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD), ATTITUDE
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EXPRESSED BY OLISEMEKA AND ECHOED BY SEVERAL LOCAL PAPERS

PROBABLY COMES CLOSER TO BASIC FMG VIEWS OF US POLICY.
FUNDAMENAL COMPLAINT VOICED BY PRESS AND EVIDENT IN
OLISEMEKA'S REMARKS IS RELATIVELY LOW PRIORITY ACCORDED AFRICAN
PROBLEMS BY USG, FACT WHICH WIRELESS FILE NOTES WAS RECOGNIZED
BY SECRETARY IN MEETING WITH OAU AMBASSADORS. FMG HAS LONG
HOPED FOR GREATER EVIDENCE OF USG CONCERN WITH AFRICAN ISSUES,
EVEN WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN US POLICY
MAY NOT RESULT. AS OLISEMEKA SUGGESTED, FMG WILL BE WATCHING
NEW ADMINISTRATION CLOSELY FOR SIGNS THAT AFRICA IS BEING
GIVEN ATTENTION THEY FEEL IT DESERVES.
REINHARDT UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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